



CHAPTER 14
ARTICLE 60 - COMPUTER-RELATED CRIME

N.C.G.S. § 14-458.1.

Cyber-bullying; penalty.

SOURCE General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT No amendment history on record	RETRIEVED 21 September 2026, 04:49 UTC	SOURCE FINGERPRINT 3c3c4763e62d5431f4b015ad - 8cf6d1143b20bc95ab41c667 - 1abc553ee393fb2b
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- § 14-458.1(a) Except as otherwise made unlawful by this Article, it shall be unlawful for any person to use a computer or computer network to do any of the following:
- (1) With the intent to intimidate or torment a minor:
- a. Build a fake profile or website;
 - b. Pose as a minor in:
 - 1. An internet chat room;
 - 2. An email message; or
 - 3. An instant message;
 - c. Follow a minor online or into an internet chat room; or
 - d. Post or encourage others to post on the internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a minor.
- (2) With the intent to intimidate or torment a minor or the minor's parent or guardian:
- a. Post a real or doctored image of a minor on the internet;
 - b. Access, alter, or erase any computer network, computer data, computer program, or computer software, including breaking into a password protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords; or
 - c. Use a computer system for repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including email or other transmissions, to a minor.

- (3) Make any statement, whether true or false, intending to immediately provoke, and that is likely to provoke, any third party to stalk or harass a minor.
- (4) Copy and disseminate, or cause to be made, an unauthorized copy of any data pertaining to a minor for the purpose of intimidating or tormenting that minor (in any form, including, but not limited to, any printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network).
- (5) Sign up a minor for a pornographic website with the intent to intimidate or torment the minor.
- (6) Without authorization of the minor or the minor's parent or guardian, sign up a minor for email lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages, with the intent to intimidate or torment the minor.

§ 14-458.1(b) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of cyber-bullying, which offense shall be punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor if the defendant is 18 years of age or older at the time the offense is committed. If the defendant is under the age of 18 at the time the offense is committed, the offense shall be punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

§ 14-458.1(c) Whenever any person pleads guilty to or is guilty of an offense under this section, and the offense was committed before the person attained the age of 18 years, the court may, without entering a judgment of guilt and with the consent of the defendant, defer further proceedings and place the defendant on probation upon such reasonable terms and conditions as the court may require. Upon fulfillment of the terms and conditions of the probation provided for in this subsection, the court shall discharge the defendant and dismiss the proceedings against the defendant. Discharge and dismissal under this subsection shall be without court adjudication of guilt and shall not be deemed a conviction for purposes of this section or for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of a crime. Upon discharge and dismissal pursuant to this subsection, the person may apply for an order to expunge the complete record of the proceedings resulting in the dismissal and discharge, pursuant to the procedures and requirements set forth in G.S. 15A-146. (2009-551, s. 1; 2012-149, s. 3; 2025-25, s. 29(1), (3), (5).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II

1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 15A-146	(c)	"procedures and requirements set forth in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-458.1 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-458.1(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers; subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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